GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5889
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
ABRUPT STOPPAGE OF RICE SALE BY FCI
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether disposal of 6.5 lakh tonnes of rice cleared for sale from the overflowing godowns in Punjab by a high level Government Committee was abruptly stopped and an earnest money of Rs. 50 crore deposited by the bidder has not been returned to them;

(b) if so, the reasons for the sudden decision of the FCI to abruptly cut off the sale ofthe rest of the quantity of rice and inviting another bid in the last week of April for the sale of another 2 lakh tonnes of rice and for not refunding the earnest money to bidders;

(c) whether the tenders invited by a specific date to be opened on a particular date at a particular time from amongst the registered suppliers be postponed to consider the proposal for the supply of items from a supplier who is not registered with the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check such malpractices in the inviting of tenders and opening thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Sale of rice was withheld due to certain complaints received and not due to invitation of fresh bids for balance quantity of URS rice (1998-99) to the tune of 2.0 lakh MT.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.